

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 2, line 5, of the specification, please replace paragraph number one with the following paragraph:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/738,282 filed on December 14, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,532,323 B2, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/426,060, filed October 22, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,266,462, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 09/022,413, filed February 12, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,021,237, which claims priority to Korean Application No. 97-24796 filed ~~June 6, 1997~~June 16, 1997, now Republic of Korea Patent No. 10-0265865.

At page 4, line 1, of the specification, please replace paragraph number five with the following paragraph:

[0005] To overcome these problems, it is known in the art to employ dynamic wavelength tunable filters to flatten or equalize the signal spectrum, as well as to obtain any desired spectral shape. One such filter is an all-fiber acousto-optic tunable filter ("AOTF") described in United States Patent No. 6,233,379, entitled "Acousto-optic filter," which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention ~~and incorporated by reference herein~~. As described in the patent, the all-fiber AOTF is a multiple notch filter, with a transfer function characterized by notch depth and center frequency (or wavelength).

At page 12, line 15, of the specification, please replace paragraph number thirty-seven with the following paragraph:

[0037] Figure 7 of the accompanying drawings illustrates an acousto-optic filter 120 constructed according to an embodiment of the invention. The filter 120 is of the kind described in U.S. Patent No. 6,266,462, issued July 24, 2001, ~~which is incorporated herein by reference~~. The filter 120 includes a mounting construction 122, the severed length 28 of the optical fiber, and an electrical signal generator 130.

At page 16, line 17, of the specification, please replace paragraph number fifty with the following paragraph:

[0050] The effect of the acoustic waves in the interaction length 37 is that the intensity of selected wavelengths of light traveling through the interaction length 37 is attenuated by coupling these wavelengths from a mode in the core into one or more modes in the cladding layer 32 of the interaction length 37. This coupling creates a notch in the transmission spectrum centered at each selected wavelength. By changing the frequency of the applied electrical signal, and thus the frequency of the acoustic waves in the interaction length 37, the center wavelength of the notch can be altered. Furthermore, by changing the magnitude of the applied voltage (and thereby the magnitude of the acoustic wave), the depth of the notch (representing the amount of light coupled to the other mode) can be changed. By cascading multiple acoustic exciter/interaction length combinations and/or applying multiple acoustic frequencies with each exciter, a combination of notches of different optical center frequencies and depths may be achieved, thereby allowing creation of a desired filter transfer-function

as described in Serial No. 09/738,282, now U.S. Patent No. 6,532,323 B2. Such a filter may be employed for gain equalization purposes. Those skilled in the art will recognize that, as an alternative to coupling light between core and cladding modes, an AOTF may also couple light between different core modes. Further details of the functioning of the filter 120 are described in U.S. Patent No. 6,266,462 referenced above.